ISTEP+ Writing Applications Overview
Grades 3–5

Score Level	Ideas and Content Does the writing sample:	Organization Does the writing sample:	Style Does the writing sample:
6	• Stay fully focused? • Include thorough and complete ideas?	• Have clear order?	• Exhibit exceptional word usage? • Exhibit writing that is fluent and easy to read? • Display a strong sense of audience?
5	• Stay focused? • Include many relevant ideas?	• Have clear order?	• Exhibit more than adequate word usage? • Exhibit writing that is fluent and easy to read? • Display a sense of audience?
4	• Stay mostly focused? • Include some relevant ideas?	• Have order?	• Exhibit adequate word usage? • Exhibit writing that is readable? • Display some sense of audience?
3	• Stay somewhat focused? • Include some relevant ideas?	• Have some order?	• Exhibit minimal word usage? • Exhibit writing that is mostly readable? • Display little sense of audience?
2	• Exhibit less than minimal focus? • Include few relevant ideas?	• Have little order?	• Exhibit less than minimal word usage? • Exhibit writing that is hard to read? • Display little sense of audience?
1	• Have little or no focus? • Include almost no relevant ideas?	• Have little or no order?	• Exhibit less than minimal word usage? • Exhibit writing that hard to read? • Display little or no sense of audience?

NOTE: This chart is only a brief summary of the score points. It is not appropriate to use this summary as the sole tool in scoring student papers. The more in-depth Writing Development Rubric is used for the actual scoring of *ISTEP+* student papers.